

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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R 122310Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4986

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

UNCLSS SUVA 513

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR FJ TN NZ XP

SUBJ: FIJI PRESS REACTION TO STATEMENTS BY PM MULDOON

IN EDITORIAL ENTITLED REACTION TO MR. MULDOON, FIJI TIMES
ON MAY 13 TAKES EXCEPTION WITH SEVERAL STATEMENTS REPORTEDLY
MADE BY NZ PRIMIN MULDOON SINCE HIS RETURN FROM HIS TRIP.
EXCERPTS ARE:

"MULDOON IS PADDLING AGAINST WIND AND TIDE IF HE BELIEVES
INDEPENDENT PACIFIC NATIONS (APART FROM NZ AND POSSIBLY
AUSTRALIA) WILL WELCOME CALL FOR CLOSER TIES BETWEEN FRANCE
AND ITS COLONIES AND OTHER COUNTRIES OF REGION. THERE IS
EVERYWHERE IN PACIFIC SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN NEW
CALEDONIA AND FRENCH POLYNESIA WHO SEEK INDEPENDENCE BUT VERY
LITTLE INDEED FOR COLONIAL POWER WHICH FOR SO LONG HAS LITTERED
REGION WITH ITS FILTHY NUCLEAR GARBAGE. NOR WILL ISLANDS
PEOPLE BE ENCHANTED, DESPITE MULDOON ASSURANCE THAT NZ HAS
SPECIAL PACIFIC RESPONSIBILITY, WITH GLIB COMMENT ABOUT NEWLY-
INDEPENDENT PACIFIC COUNTRY: QTE EIGHT ISLAND TOGETHER--
7000 PEOPLE AND LOTS OF COCONUTS THAT NOBODY WANTS UNQTE.
THIS KIND OF REMARK NOBODY IN PACIFIC WANTS, AND IF MULDOON
DOES NOT QUICKLY BECOME AWARE OF PACIFIC SENSIBILITIES HE

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WILL ALL THE MORE QUICKLY BE REGARDED AS SOMEONE WHO STANDS

FOR ATTITUDES WHICH HAVE NOW FOR SOME TIME BEEN REGARDED AS UNACCEPTABLE. THERE SEEMS ALSO TO HAVE BEEN SOMETHING OF A FLAP IN AUSTRALIA AND NZ ABOUT WHETHER NOT TONGA IS ABOUT TO MAKE SOME KIND OF NASTY DEAL WITH RUSSIANS--AN EVENT WHICH WOULD PRESUMABLY MATTER TO OTHER MEMBER OF ANZUS DEFENSE TREATY, THE US. IT IS NOT EASY TO SEE REASON BYOND THIS, IN FACT. RUSSIAN WHALERS AND RESEARCH SHIPS HAVE BEEN USING SUVA AS BUNKER PORT FOR YEARS AND NOW FIJI HAS MAINLAND CHINA DIPLOMATIC MISSION AS WELL AS TAIWAN TRADE GROUP. THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY OVERT FUSS ABOUT THIS, ALTHOUGH PRESUMABLY HIGH COMMISSION TELEXES TO WELLINGTON AND CANBERRA WERE FAIRLY BUSY. NEITHER SHOULD THERE BE, GIVEN THAT FIJI IS INDEPENDENT DOMINION QUITE CAPABLE OF MAKING UP ITS OWN MIND ABOUT ITS OWN FOREIGN POLICY. IT MAY EASILY BE MATTER OF CONCERN TO ISLAND PEOPLE OF PACIFIC THAT BIGGER POWERS ARE TRYING TO PLAY DIPLOMATIC CHESS IN REGION BUT THAT CONCERN APPLIES EQUALLY TO ANY COUNTRY WHICH DOES NOT RESPECT AN INDEPENDENT NATIONS RIGHT AND DUTY TO CONDUCT ITS AFFAIRS IN ITS OWN WAY AND IN WHAT IT BELIEVES TO BE ITS OWN BEST INTERESTS."

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